



**OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM
MAYOR RUSTY PAUL
August 18, 2020**

As the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, the first priority of the City of Sandy Springs ("City") is the well-being and safety of its citizens. The City is actively monitoring the spread of COVID-19 under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other public health authorities.

COVID-19 was an unknown as 2020 began. In a few short months, Coronavirus has impacted, literally, the world. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included two emergency declarations: one under the National Emergencies Act and one under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Acting pursuant to guidelines of the CDC and other public health authorities, on March 12, 2020, the Sandy Springs City Council ("City Council") issued an ordinance declaring a public health State of Emergency to address COVID-19 ("Emergency Declaration Ordinance"). On March 17, 2020, City Council amended the Emergency Declaration Ordinance to restrict certain activities within the City to ensure that appropriate social distancing is practiced, lessening the chance of spreading the illness. These actions were taken by City Council to ensure the safety of the citizens of Sandy Springs.

On March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia ("Governor") issued an Executive Order declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of COVID-19, which was renewed and extended on several occasions.

Further, the Governor issued an Executive Order effective August 16, 2020 declaring directives that prescribe how citizens, businesses and local jurisdictions are to comply with the provisions of his Executive Order.

After a steady trend of decreasing metrics, recent weeks have seen the numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths spike in Georgia and in the City. This worrying trend of increased COVID-19 spread is a danger to the health and safety of every citizen and also presents a serious threat to reopening and reviving the economy.

Wearing a mask in public is the easiest and most effective way to protect each other and help keep City businesses open and its economy running. Mask wearing is not only safe and easy, but necessary to avoid more restrictive local measures that could involve closing businesses, schools, organized youth sports, and other important activities. The City must remain flexible to account for the evolving nature and scope of the unprecedented public health emergency posed by COVID-19, while also simultaneously, safely, strategically, and incrementally reopening businesses and facilitating economic recovery and revitalization.



For these and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of my responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the City of Sandy Springs, the City takes the position that wearing properly affixed masks or other face coverings in public spaces is critical to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. In these challenging times, the City will do whatever it can to avoid immediate dangers to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

Therefore, in order to: 1) comply with and administer locally the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order effective August 16, 2020; and 2) ensure that Sandy Springs citizens do everything they can to help keep each other safe and keep its businesses open as the economy is restored, I hereby direct the following:

1. As required by the Governor's Executive Order effective August 16, 2020, all residents of the City who meet the criteria for sheltering in place shall comply with the Governor's Sheltering in Place directive, excepting those activities permitted by the Governor's Executive Order. Visitors to those required to shelter in place are restricted to the conditions outlined in said Executive Order.
2. All restaurants and dining services facilities operating within the City shall comply with the conditions outlined for Restaurants & Dining Services contained in the Governor's August 16, 2020 Executive Order.
3. All industry, commerce, organizations and non-profit groups within the jurisdiction of the City shall comply with the requirements outlined in the Governor's August 16, 2020 Executive Order, including wherever possible and practical, the wearing of face masks or face coverings when interacting with the public.
4. All healthcare facilities located and operating within the jurisdiction of the City shall comply with the requirements set forth for healthcare facilities in the Governor's Executive Order of August 16, 2020.
5. All educational institutions and camps operating within the City shall comply with the requirements set forth in the Governor's Executive Order effective August 16, 2020.
6. All sports and live performance activities within the City shall comply with the Governor's Executive Order effective August 16, 2020. Further, live performances at City-owned or controlled venues shall be canceled during the effective period of said Order and City-owned or controlled performance venues shall remain closed for the duration of said Executive Order.
7. The Governor's Executive Order effective August 16, 2020 allows county and municipal governments to make, amend and rescind such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes. Therefore, effective immediately, all employees, customers, visitors, members, or members of the public should cover their mouths and noses with a mask or other face covering when they are in the following situations:



- a. Inside, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
 - b. Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings, including but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;
 - c. Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
 - d. While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a six (6) foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.
8. Effective immediately, all city-owned facilities, businesses or organizations in the City should require all employees, customers, visitors, members, or members of the public to wear a mask or other face covering when:
- a. Employees are working in any space visited by customers or members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
 - b. Employees are working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
 - c. Employees are working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
 - d. Customers, members, visitors, or members of the public are in a facility managed by the business or organization; or
 - e. Employees and visitors to any City owned facility;
 - f. Employees are in any room or enclosed area where other people (except for individuals who reside together) are present and are unable to maintain a six (6) foot distance except for infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.
9. The following individuals or organizations are exempted from the mask wearing or other face covering requirements herein described:
- a. Businesses or private property owners who choose to exempt themselves from the mask requirements as permitted under the Governor's Executive Order. Those businesses or organizations opting to exempt themselves from the mask requirement must post a notice in a prominent place readable by anyone entering its facilities that says "Masks Not Required."



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- b. Persons age five (5) years or under should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
- c. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- d. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- e. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
- f. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- g. Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided they maintain a six (6) foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together or are seated together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- h. Athletes who are engaged in an organized sports activity that allows athletes to maintain a six (6) foot distance from others with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- i. Persons who are engaged in an activity that a professional or recreational association, regulatory entity, medical association, or other public-health-oriented entity has determined cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask or other face covering;
- k. Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face covering is prohibited by law.

10. Definitions:

- a. "Mask or other face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face. A mask or other face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic and natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. Ideally, a mask or other face covering has two or more layers. A mask or other face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.



b. "Public space" means any indoor or outdoor space or area that is open to the public; this does not include private residential property or private offices or workspaces that are not open to customers or public visitors.

11. Nothing in this directive shall be interpreted to restrict, limit, or supersede the Governor's authority to make isolation, quarantine, or other orders restricting movement or to execute the Emergency Powers granted to the Governor under law as necessary to respond to escalating or worsening conditions in any local jurisdiction. Any part or provision of this directive that is inconsistent with a lawful federal or state order shall be null and void and unenforceable. Should any part or portion of this directive be determined by a lawful process to be inconsistent with said federal or state order, only that part or provision deemed inconsistent shall be null and void and unenforceable.

12. This directive shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect during current and subsequent Executive Orders that may be issued by the Governor during the currently declared State of Emergency and subject to any changes or amendments thereto.

This directive should be read in conjunction with other executive orders responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that are still in effect and supersedes any contrary provisions of previous orders.

I want to thank you for your continued support as we come together – and as a community work together to get through this pandemic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell K. Paul".

Russell K. Paul
Mayor